3/1/77

Dear Les,

Thanks very much for the reprint of your Arfica pieces. If you did not mail them please thank the one who did. I think it is great of Newsday to do this. I've recommended to Dave Wrone that he obtain copies for his students, particularly the black students he says are looking forward to your speaking to and with them in April.

Last Friday I phoned George Lardner, believing wrongly that he had attended the Bell breakfast meeting with reporters. Had I thought it through I'd have realized it would have been who it was, their DJ man, Goshko.

George was off Friday. He phoned me yesterday. We talked about the committee for a while. His last info was of last Thursday. He was to speak to both Fauntroy and Preyer yesterday. I take it from no story in today's paper that the conversations did not yield Post story material.

He had a transcript of a partial transcript I think you will want of an O'Neill appearance on the Washington WTTG Panorama Show. O'Neill forecst the end of the committee under some circumstances, those that appear not to be impossible. If he sends me a copy, as he said he would, I'll send you one. Or you might ask the station for it.

George does not see the resolution of the superficial problem through the known compromise proposal. He thinks this can mean the end despite the popular pressures for the committee. He does not think a new resolution is unlikely (I asked about this in suggesting it may be in the works) and he asked me if I think it might be limited to King. I do and I think he does.

For there to be the real chance I now see for the accepting of truth we have to get past two hurdles - these Keystone Kops and the Lane/Freed disinformation. There are those in the House who will go with the fabrications. If these attract attention then the FBI will move and will demolish the ripoff artists and their friends in the Congress.

On the q.t. there is another operation not reported, in the Senate. Intelligence "oversight" (prophetic Orwell!) has a secret subcommittee under Gary Hart. The can be a third hurdle.

By the time those bolts are shot I think I'll have it all put together on paper and with or without Zebra will be able to get a proper audience for it. So I plan to say as little as possible until the time comes for the dropping of both shoes.

If you have not sent me a copy of your Sunday piece I'd appreciate one.

I am saving your reprint for Friday, when I have to go to Washington for a morning court hearing. I always take something to read with me. I'll read it then unless Arthur McZier sets up a meeting with Mitchell.

The rotten nature of the Lane/Freed operation with the Rays is becoming more apparent as time enables it. There is no doubt they have conned Jimmy. I've sent Jimmy an angry letter beginning with a Lane quote from Skeptic. If you have it what Lane says about Ray and the guilty-plea hearing is exactly what Foreman and the prosecution says. If Jimmy does not react to that I'll regard it as positive confirmation of my belief of several years, that he is not rational. By which I mean rational for him, which is not what is generally considered rational.

Best,